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DD/A Registry

File OTM 6

30 August 1974

CIA History Staff Monthly Report #3

1. Approved Program

During August, [] completed an important appendix to his Iranian history. It is a competent review of the oil factor. [] will also finish a first draft of the entire history within days. After I review it, he plans to show it to appropriate officials. It will then shrink and grow.

[] is deep into the [] archives on Vietnam. Unless he gets some help, he may never surface again. On 29 August, EA division offered the history staff the free services of a senior reports officer with many years experience on Vietnam. She is a placement problem and needs a non-supervisory assignment. I have assigned her to help [] with a mutual agreement that we will all keep our options open. I have my fingers crossed.

[] has streamlined his work plan on the Bay of Pigs. His research work has been outstanding, and I now believe he will begin writing sooner than he planned.

Walter Pforzheimer is reviewing [] legislative history work. He is also reviewing Marchetti's book. Walter works at his own pace. My first formal review session with him is two months off.

During August, we took physical custody of the DD/O histories. There is a fair demand for them, mostly by younger officers. I am reading all of them personally and will probably declare a majority of them as failing to qualify as legitimate histories under the Agency history program criteria.

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During August, we completed, with PSD, the first run-through on the executive portrait roster except for [] who is abroad.

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We received our first responses from the DD/O on the intelligence museum collection. They were not helpful.

Two major proposals - one on the wider internal use of histories, the other on releasing a history - are still pending.

2. Ad Hockery

We are preparing to receive Ray Cline and his research assistant. They will probably end up in Key Building, in which case the history staff will service their requests.

Yet another, hopefully, the last batch of papers have emerged from Mr. Dulles' house. [] has agreed to review them for final disposition.

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[] on behalf of George Carver, asked me to draft a proposal for releasing captured Vietnamese Communist documents. I don't know why I said yes, but I did.

I remain involved with Mr. John A. McCone. We sent him some unclassified background material on the Agency and Watergate. I also worked with EUR division on his forthcoming trip to Europe.

3. Personnel and other

[] were told that their positions will be abolished and that they have until 30 June 1975 to relocate. They took the news calmly and are in touch with [] who is, for my money, as good a personnel officer as I have ever encountered.

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There was a brief flicker of light at the end of the space tunnel, but all is dark again.

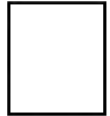
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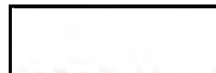
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Sherm Kent roars back into town after Labor Day. I look forward to that.

As of 31 August, I go on leave. I shall return on 16 September looking forward with great eagerness to teaching my first class in the off-campus program and to a management conference on 17 September.



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WALTER ELDER
Chief, CIA History Staff

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